NOTE XLVI.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HERPETOLOGY OF SUMATRA

BY

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I. *On Cophotis sumatrana* n. sp.

The genus *Cophotis* was established by Peters for an Agamid from Ceylon and his species, *Cophotis ceylanica*, must be rare and very locally distributed in that island, according to Günther. The latter author gives a detailed description and an excellent figure of the animal in his *Reptiles of British India.*

A specimen very closely allied to the Ceylon species has been forwarded to our Museum from Sumatra; it differs however in enough important respects from its Ceylonese namesake to permit a specific distinction. In order to facilitate a comparison the points of difference with *Cophotis ceylanica* are printed in italics.

Cophotis sumatrana mihi.

Head tetrahedral, rather narrow, with the snout somewhat produced; tail slightly prehensile. The upper surface of the head is covered with small, irregular shields. *Rostral appendage consisting of a single, pointed, hornlike scale*, resembling in form and dimensions the appendage figured

by Günther (Rept. Brit. Ind. Pl. XIII, F'') for the immature male of *Ceratophora Stoddarti*. Nine upper and eight lower labials, nostril lateral. *A fringe of elongated scales runs along the superciliary ridge*, another larger pointed scale lies on both sides behind the eye, in the vertical from the beginning of the nuchal crest. Tympanum hidden. The gular sac is but little developed.

Nuchal crest composed of nine larger and several smaller scales, all elongate and pointed. It is not continuous with the dorsal crest, which consists of similar scales in the median line of the dorsum and is continued along more than three fourths of the length of the tail. *About eighteen scales on the trunk ond twenty-five on the tail contribute to the formation of this crest.* The upper parts of the trunk are covered with very large, imbricate scales, somewhat irregularly arranged in transverse rows, with their free borders turned ventrally; some of them are keeled. Scales on the tail comparatively large, *ventrally as well as dorsally*. Limbs moderately developed; *toes with carinated transverse scales below;* the third and fourth hind toes are nearly equal in length.

A light ground colour (in spirits) is intersected along the trunk and tail by broad brown crossbands, not continuous on the belly; the head appears to be marmorated with brown. Length of the specimen 18 centim.

The exact locality in the island of Sumatra, where this specimen was captured, was not noted at the time of its acquisition (1848); it is most probable nevertheless, that it came from the environs of Padang.

II. *On Python curtus* Schlegel, Ms.

Of this interesting new snake, which was named by Prof. Schlegel several years ago, when it first arrived in our Museum, a detailed description and figure will before

long appear in the first number of the Annals of the Leyden Museum.

A short diagnosis, sufficient for identification of specimens, which might reach Europe from the same or from adjacent localities, may here follow.

Body short, compressed before the vent, less so towards the middle of the trunk and the neck. Internasals as long as, but much less broad than frontonasal plates. Two rather large prefrontals, frontal divided into two halves, each of them smaller than either prefontal or frontonasal. About five pairs of parietals, the first of which are the largest and touch the supra-oculars and frontals with their edges. Three supra-oculars on each side. Two grooves in the rostral plate and one in each of the two front pairs of upper labials. On each side eleven upper labials and sixteen lower labials; five or six of the latter are indistinctly pitted and brown-streaked anteriorly. Eye comparatively smaller than in other Pythons.

Only 160 ventral shields from throat to vent, 32 subcaudal ones, divided in the middle. Ground-colour (in spirits) a light brownish yellow with dark brown markings and clouds, having about the pattern of the allied species (*P. reticulatus*, *P. bivittatus*). Upper surface of the head light all over. A broad dark streak runs along the sides of the head, passes horizontally through the eye, and is interrupted by a narrow light one from the eye to the seventh and eighth upper labials. Behind the parietals a median light line is marked off by darker shades to the right and left.

The specimen was procured by S. Müller, the naturalist to the Leyden Museum, from that part of Sumatra which lies between Padang and Indrapura. It measures 46 cm.